

WHY is it that taxes must come to make it a holler-day season?

HOME EDITION

GRAVITY OF SITUATION WITH VIENNA UNCHANGED BY MEETING OF CABINET

OFFICIAL TEXT OF REPLY LIKE PRESS REPORTS

Ancona Answer Evasive, Unsatisfactory, Unacceptable.

No Move To Be Made Until Cloudy Points Are Cleared.

BREAK IS NOT LIKELY NOW

No Severance Before Another Exchange of Notes.

Situation Does Not Change Wilson Wedding Plans.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona, received during the night, was laid today before President Wilson and the cabinet and discussed more than an hour.

The gravity of the situation caused by Austria's rejoinder to the American demands, which is considered evasive, unsatisfactory and unacceptable, remained unchanged when the meeting ended.

The next step will not be decided upon until some minor points not clear in the official text are checked up. The apparent discrepancies are not important and may be due to transmission or translation from the state department code, but they will be cleared up before another move is made.

Secretary Lansing said after the cabinet meeting that he did not know when the official text of the note would be given out for publication and that it certainly would not be made public until he had an opportunity to study it carefully, and at length.

Diplomatic relations, although in danger of being broken off, are not likely to be discontinued, at least before there has been another exchange of notes with Vienna, and so the crisis may be said not to be in its final stage.

So far as was apparent today the situation has not affected President Wilson's plans for going on his honeymoon journey after his wedding tomorrow.

Before the president leaves, however, he will agree with Secretary Lansing on the outline of a reply to Austria's note.

Some time after the cabinet meeting Prince Hohenlohe, one of the Austrian embassy attaches, called on Secretary Lansing and presented a communication. Both the prince and the secretary's aides refused to indicate its nature, but the presentation of another communication lent strength to the belief that some informal negotiation was being done.

Figaro Sees Wilson Spurred.

Paris, Dec. 17.—"We shall be very much astonished if the American government does not reply to the Austrian note by simply instructing Ambassador Penfield to ask for his passport and by handing his passport to the Austrian charge at Washington," says the Figaro.

Austria's answer is a barely disguised refusal. The only satisfaction Austria gives the United States is that she does not keep the United States waiting for it.

"President Wilson's longanimity has its limits, and the demoralization of the Austrian charge at Washington, and the recall of Ambassador Penfield will show that it is not a question of a fit of energy, but a carefully thought-out resolution."

LORD KITCHENER TO GIVE UP BACHELOR LIFE AT 64

London, Dec. 17.—Lord Kitchener, stern advocate of bachelor life, is about to desert bachelorhood, according to rumors brought here today. The rumor, it is reported, will be the Dowager Countess of Minto, widow of a former governor general of Canada, and a favorite in Washington and Newport society during her residence in Canada.

The countess, a noted beauty in her younger days, is a daughter of General Charles Grey, and a first cousin of Earl Grey. She is a lover of outdoor sports, and in Canada attracted attention by mastering the use of snow shoes. With frequent visits to the United States, she was frequently entertained by Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Lord Kitchener is 64 years old.

BERLIN NAVAL EXPERT AND BERLIN PRESS FLAY NOTE AND WASHINGTON

Berlin, Dec. 17.—Captain I. Persius, naval expert of the Tageblatt, makes the following comment today on the Austrian note: "Washington plainly forgot when it sent its note that its case rests on statements of excited passengers, as against sworn statements of Austrian naval officers. The American note shows a little of equal standing. As a central Austria-Hungary does not let itself be handled as a weak state, it must first of all defend itself in a just and equitable manner."

The Cologne Gazette says: "America may now choose. If it desires intercourse as a well-mannered state with another large and well-mannered state, it must first of all defend itself in a just and equitable manner. As a central Austria-Hungary does not let itself be handled as a weak state, it must first of all defend itself in a just and equitable manner."

The Boersen Zeitung says the Vienna note is really not an answer, but a demand that the United States define its position in a manner customary among states. When this is done, Vienna will not hold back with an answer and one cannot doubt what it will be.

NEW NOTE TO AUSTRIA

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary Lansing, in the Anglo-American crisis, is expected to mean one of three things:

The persistence of diplomatic relations.

Complete breakdown of Austria.

Presentation of a note to Austria that entirely refutes the statement of her admiralty, on which statement the first vigorous Ancona note was based.

This is what the secretary will take to President Wilson, away on his honeymoon. With the latter approval, Mr. Lansing will return to Washington and dispatch it to the foreign office in Vienna.

It will leave no stone unturned, it is declared, for the prolonged negotiations for which Austria's note received today is considered to be biding.

OIL AGAIN IS UP

Another Advance of Five Cents a Barrel Posted.

Flight Due to Failure of Producers to Sell.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 17.—Failure of oil producers to market the oil they have above ground in the face of repeated advances during the last three months, compelled the purchasing agencies to announce a further advance in prices today, five cents a barrel being added to all grades except Ragland, which commanded an increase of two cents.

The new prices are: Pennsylvania crude \$21.15; Cabell, \$17.00; Mercer black, Newcastle and Corning, \$16.55; Seneca, \$15.35; Ragland, 72 cents.

Immense quantities of crude oil are held in storage in the West Virginia and western Pennsylvania fields, but very little of it is finding its way to the refineries, who openly declare that they are short of oil.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Met at noon.

Took up the house resolution extending the emergency revenue act one year.

Philippines committee continued hearings on the self-governance bill.

Senator Shafroth introduced a bill for universal disarmament through an international tribunal.

The Works bill for development of water holes in the Colorado desert and the Sterling bill for 640-acre stock raising homesteads were reported favorably.

Senator Weeks introduced bill for regulation of insurance company.

HOUSE—Met at noon.

Representative Buchanan failed to appear before judiciary committee to substantiate his impeachment charges against United States Attorney Marshall.

Passed senate bill authorizing construction of a railroad bridge across Allegheny river at Oil City, Pa.

Public lands committee began consideration of conservation bills which failed of enactment at last congress.

G. R. O. SCHEME IN OPERATION HERE?

Two Topeka Commission Men Are Placed Under Arrest.

They Are Charged With Using Mails to Defraud.

HAD BEEN HERE 30 DAYS

Failed to Pay for Goods Bought, It Is Charged.

Offered Prices Considerably Above Market Quotations.

An alleged fraudulent get-rich-quick commission scheme has been unearthed in Topeka, according to information received today from Fred Robertson, United States district attorney at Kansas City. The alleged disclosure wherein the Maxwell Commission company, 120 North Kansas avenue, is charged with defrauding Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri out of thousands of dollars, was made by federal authorities today following the arrest of W. F. Maxwell, alleged head of the firm at Kansas City Thursday evening. Another man, John Koy, who federal officials charge with knowing too much about the workings of the commission company, is being held at the Shawnee county jail for investigation. According to District Attorney Robertson complaints were being made out against the two men today.

Running 30 Days.

The Maxwell Commission company opened for business in Topeka on lower Kansas avenue about 30 days ago. Federal officials and others interested in the case claim to have information to the effect that the company sent out quotations through the mail, quoting eggs, potatoes and other produce at higher prices than contemporaries. A rushing business resulted.

(Continued on Page Six.)

KANSAS IN MISERY

Entire State Grasped in Epidemic of Colds.

Grip Closes Schools—Blame Climatic Conditions.

Kansas is in the throes of an epidemic of colds, according to reports received at the office of Dr. J. J. Sippey, state epidemiologist. Dr. Sippey asserted today that these reports show that the trouble is not confined to any particular locality, but has been prevalent in most every community. Most of the reports are of a species of influenza, which in itself is not dangerous, but which, unless proper precautions are taken, develops into pneumonia. Reports on some cases indicate that severe chills accompany the grippe and on others that ear trouble is present.

The epidemic is attributed to climatic conditions and is putting thousands of Kansans under the grip of colds, influenza and scarlet fever also are present this year than usual, Dr. Sippey reported. However, neither of these is present in epidemic form, he said.

"With plenty of fresh air and exercise, Kansans should have no fear of these fall complaints," Dr. Sippey said.

JUDGE DANA TO HEAR IT

High School Sorority Case Will Be Called for Preliminary Hearing Saturday Morning.

The defendants in the "sorority" suit, have appeared in court and waived summons in the case, which will be called for preliminary hearing before Judge A. W. Dana Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The four girls, who are charged with having been in the high school building, but today it was changed from the second to the first district of the court.

The hearing tomorrow will be quite an event for high school students and the court room is likely to be packed.

Dr. H. Kelsey, field agent of the National Christian association, will speak on the secret order question at the Reformed Presbyterian church, 229 Clay street Sunday and Monday evenings. His topic will be, "If these secret orders are detrimental to the best interests of the high school, are not secret orders in general detrimental to the best interests of society at large and should not membership in them therefore be discouraged?"

RELIEF SHIP IS SINKING

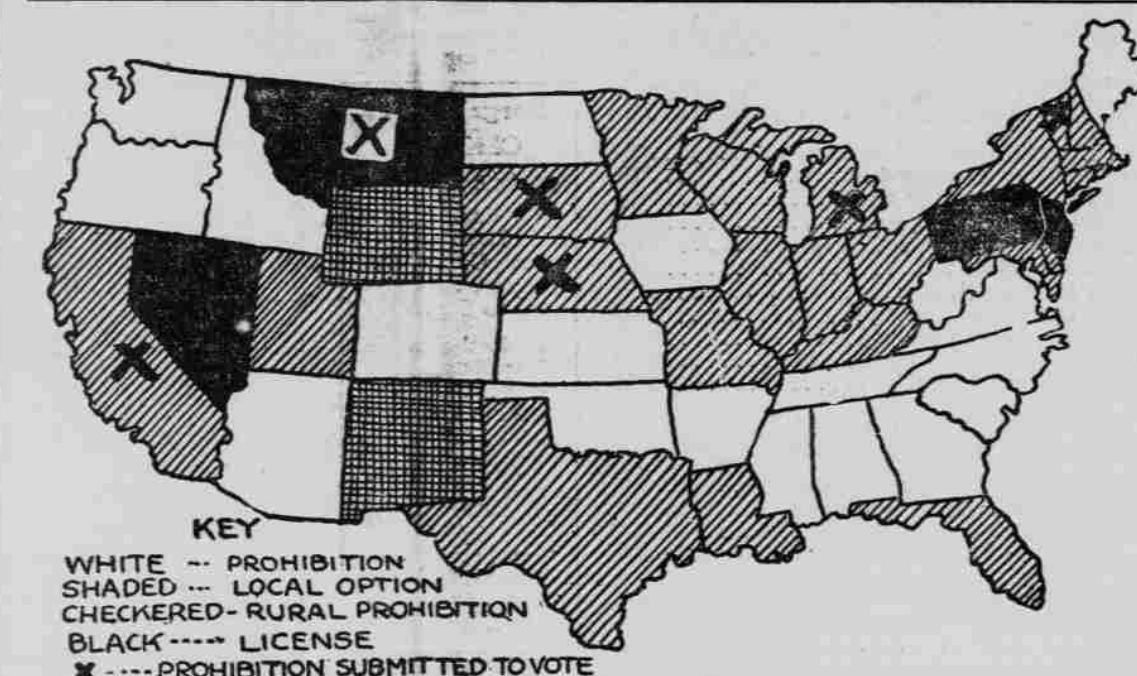
Belgian Committee's Steamer Strikes Mine and Is Beached on English East Coast.

London, Dec. 17.—The Belgian relief committee's steamer, Levenpool, from New York for Rotterdam, carried a mixed cargo of foodstuffs for the Belgians valued at \$1,400,000. It is fully insured.

Cargo Worth \$1,400,000.

New York, Dec. 17.—The relief steamer Levenpool, which struck a mine in the English channel, carried a mixed cargo of foodstuffs for the Belgians valued at \$1,400,000. It is fully insured.

NATION GROWS DRYER EACH YEAR; IS PROHIBITION AHEAD?



A fierce battle between the wets and the dries is to be fought in congress at the present session. For many years the tendency in the United States has been toward the increase of dry territory. Those favorable to the wet cause declare, however, that the dry wave has reached its crest and will soon begin to recede.

TOWIPE OUT ARMY

Austria Tries to Deliver Crushing Blow to Montenegro.

Campaign Being Pushed to Annihilate Resisting Forces.

ALBANIA NEW WAR THEATER

Italians Plan Big Campaign to Control the Adriatic.

They Now Have 30,000 Troops Stationed at Avlona.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—At army headquarters the announcement was made today that the Austro-Hungarian troops which are invading Montenegro have captured Bielo-pole on the Lim river about 20 miles west of the Serbian border.

London, Dec. 17.—With affairs in Greece assuming a quieter character, there has been a partial deflection of interest in European capitals to the Italian plans regarding Albania. The general belief seems to be that the operations in this new theater of war will be on a grand scale. The Italians, in strength, are already safely ashore at Avlona, as well as at certain points of strategic importance.

For years Avlona has been regarded by Italy and Austria alike as the key to the Adriatic and is a maximum in south central Europe that whoever commands Avlona commands the Adriatic. Avlona has been for several months occupied by a light force of Italians for police purposes. The anxiety with which Italy watches the Albanian coast is due to the existence there of good harbors, in contrast with the total absence of such harbors along the coast of the Balkans.

Italy is expected to contribute greatly to the reorganization of the Serbian army, which is now concentrating at Avlona. Albania while the Avlona position is hardly favorable for an offensive movement, he says, the expedition may be regarded as the starting point of operations on a large scale.

Austria has sent reinforcements into Montenegro and is pushing with energy her campaign to capture or annihilate the Montenegrin army.

Further particulars regarding the Italian force sent to Albania, with the presumed purpose of co-operating in the Italian operations of the entire alliance, state that the number of men already landed at Avlona is 30,000.

Of the large force of Greeks that was stationed at Saloniki, only one regiment of artillery and one of engineers remain in Athens.

Further operations of submarines in the Mediterranean are indicated by the announcement from London of the sinking of the German submarine U-20, which was sunk by British forces in the Aegean Sea.

WAR NEWS BOILED DOWN FOR THE RUSHED READER

The Serbians succeeded in making thousands of prisoners during their retreat before the Austro-German-Bulgarian drive, and 40,000 men who were captured by them, together with 750 Bulgarian prisoners, were taken to the Italian force sent to Albania, with the presumed purpose of co-operating in the Italian operations of the entire alliance, state that the number of men already landed at Avlona is 30,000.

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Some of the clothing stores are planning on keeping open every night next week as a general rule most of the shops in the city will not open for night trade until Wednesday.

Fletcher Ambassador to Mexico

Supreme Court Pays Respects to Fake Litigants.

Seek Legal Success Through Delays and Appeals.

HIT LAW EVADERS

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BASELESS AND CONTUMACIOUS

Is Expression of Justice Burch in Hot Indictment.

Suggests Relief Through Acts of State Legislature.

"Baseless and contumacious" appears to be the phrase which has been used by Justice Burch in a decision by Justice Burch in a case from Barton county involving provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

Nearly a year ago Justice Burch paid his respects to the corporations which sought to evade the spirit of the compensation act. When a New York insurance company came before the court with an application to be relieved of the burden which came to the company through the decision, Justice Burch wrote an opinion touching on "baseless and contumacious appeals." The entire court concurred in the Burch opinion.

The case in point involved the killing of a son of Ellen McCracken. The young man was killed while in the employ of a bridge company. The mother was awarded damages in the amount of \$1,872. When the insurance company, which guaranteed payment of claims, brought the case before the court, Justice Burch wrote an opinion, suggested settlement in installments, the trial court ordered the money paid in a lump sum. The supreme court upheld the decision and the insurance company appealed.

Justice Burch in his opinion expressed a few opinions of the company which sought to withhold from the aged woman the judgment of the court. He said that the insurance company pleads that it was forced to resist a lump payment through an order of the New York insurance department. All of which rolls the feelings of the Kansas court.

"The judgment of the district court was that compensation should be made in a lump sum," says Justice Burch in his opinion. "There was no ground for appeal. Because the Fidelity & Casualty company of New York was under obligations to submit to the court the decision of the higher law than the state and rules of procedure in this state, it proceeded to resist to the utmost and refused to pay the money awarded."

The result was not a lawsuit but, as the court indicated before, a demoralizing abuse of the judicial machinery of the state perpetrated in disrespect of its laws and in an effort to thwart the purpose of the legislature expressed in a social welfare statute.

As the former opinion stated, the court found for the plaintiff and the means of dealing with this kind of lawlessness, the real culprit not being in court or subject to process and rule.

Legislation Should Act.

The court then suggests that possibly the legislature might give attention to the matter by enacting a law which would make it a crime for a corporation to resist to the utmost and refuse to pay the money awarded.

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"Some disagreeable facts have been set down plainly and in detail, which ought to be taken some interest in some quarters."

BUY A CHICAGO WARD

Illinois Citizens Subscribe for a Section in the American Hospital in Paris.

ODD STORIES THAT COME OUT OF WAR-TORN EUROPE

Liverpool—John Eaton, Ruffin Bay, who heard about the war in September, arrived here after a 14,000 mile trip and enlisted in the Scottish Horse.

London—Henry Collins, Cambridge, has five sons, two brothers, two grandsons, fourteen nephews, one son-in-law and three brothers-in-law in the army, and has been congratulated by the king.

London—Over 2,250 past and present students of Rugby have signed the names of those who have been killed and 280 wounded.

RED FEED WARNS OF WAR IN TRADE

Secretary Urges Laws to Save United States Industries.

Every Stratagem of Industrial Strife To Be Used.

EUROPE TO GO AFTER MANTS

End of Armed Conflict to See Clash in Commerce.

Commission Proposed to Throttle Unfair Competition.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Legislation to protect the industrial and commercial interests of the United States from a "destructive type of struggle and unfair competition" at the close of the European war, is recommended to congress by Secretary Redfield, in a special report. Every stratagem of industrial war, he says, will be used by powerful foreign agencies against American industries which may menace large markets heretofore controlled abroad.

The secretary suggested that the machinery of the departments of justice and commerce be used to enforce the non-aggression supplement existing laws to give the federal government means to protect American markets.

"In my judgment," said the secretary, "the matter is one which may be more wisely treated as an attempted wrong than as a forbidden act in a social matter which needs to be restrained. I should prefer, therefore, to deal with it by methods other than tariffs, classing it as an offense similar to the unfair domestic competition we forbid."

It seems possible that by using the existing machinery of the treasury department and department of justice we may restrain this foreign "competition" on both sides of the sea.

"I recommend, therefore, that such legislation be enacted as will give to the United States the means to protect its markets."

DEAD IN STORM

Whole Town of Cullum, Miss., Reported Wiped Out.

Two Killed at Meridian and Other Places Suffer.

Meridian, Miss., Dec. 17.—Ten persons are reported killed, more than a hundred hurt, and the whole town of Cullum destroyed by a tornado early today.

Two persons were killed and many hurt here. The property damage here will not be heavy.

At Giles, Miss., where a house was blown down, two women were killed. Six deaths were the toll at Cullum, a small town near here, which is reported wiped off the map.

RUSS FIRE ON U.S. FLAG?

Turkish Government Charges Czar's Warships Destroyed Building Flying American Colors.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—(By wireless to Sayville.)—The charge that Russian warships fired on the American flag in the Black Sea, which was reported by the news agency announced today.

The Turkish government has published reports concerning violations of international law by the enemy.

"On July 16 and 17 enemy airmen shelled the hospital at Havoron, Dornip.

Turkish prisoners were treated humanely by the enemy and were forced to assist in front of the works near Seddul-Bahr.

The Porto Said, with machine guns on peaceful inhabitants of Dikili, in Karasi, Asiatic Turkey.

In July 8 Russian torpedo boats destroyed a Turkish torpedo boat in the United States flag at Port.

COLDEST NIGHT SO FAR

The Mercury Dropped to 17 Degrees Last Night—Below Normal for This Date.

WEATHER forecast for Kansas: clearing tonight and Saturday; rising temperature Saturday and in the west and central parts of the state tonight.

PLOT HERE?

Mules for War Shipment in Topeka, Night's Victims.

Persons Attempted to Enter Barns in Early Morning.

TRIED TO PUT THEIR EYES OUT

Preparations Made, Too, to Throw Acid on Them.

Flour Mill Fire Another Indication to Police.

Has the epidemic of underhanded work against the "war trade" of the United States with the allied nations of Europe spread to Topeka? Several members of the police force are wondering.

Early this morning a fiend or fiends entered the feed yards and barns at 916 North Kansas avenue, owned by "Bud" White, and made an attempt to mutilate a valuable mule. White had purchased for an eastern buyer who is shipping thousands of horses and mules to the Allies.

Put Out Their Eyes.

An attempt was made to put out the eyes of the mule. From all appearances acid had been thrown in them.

"The shoulders of one of the mules was severely mutilated slightly. Over the bodies of both the animals the hair was clipped close in several places and the mule was shot at. The man or men who entered the yard were preparing to put acid on the skin of the animals when frightened away."

The police in North Topeka have been notified to keep a close watch on the yard, particularly at night.

Several horses and mules are being kept in the yards and barn. White expects to send some of the animals to Kansas City from where they will be shipped to Europe.

No trace of the fiend who entered the yard has been found.

F. Bechtelmeier, partner of White's, stated today that an armed guard would be placed at the stables where the mules were mutilated this morning, beginning tonight.

White and Bechtelmeier have 37 head of horses in the yards ready to ship at a moment's notice. It is supplying allied agents with horses.

The recent attempt to burn the flour mill in Topeka, another indication of the war feeling theory. This mill has been manufacturing flour for export to France and England since the war.

The fact that there have been ten incendiary fires in Topeka in the last six days, and that the flour mill in factories—brings out the "firebug" theory. Armed guards have been placed at the flour mill and it is said that no more successful attempts may be carried out.

ITALIAN STEAMER SUNK

London, Dec. 17.—The Italian steamer Porto Said has been sunk it is announced here.

The Porto Said was 435 feet long and had a gross tonnage of 5,167. According to the latest records of her movements, she was bound from Genoa November 17, for Alexandria.

The fire at the Kaw Package Manufacturing company which occurred Wednesday night was still burning last night. The fire was still burning and the company is still working to put it out. The building was packed with green baskets and the fire is completely out of control. There was absolutely no way for these baskets to take fire unless the fire was started by some person or persons, according to Chief Hanlon, and it is the third fire there in a month.

WILSON HONEYMOON PLANS ARE NOT TO BE UPSET BY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Washington, Dec. 17.—Wedding and honeymoon plans of President Wilson are not to be upset by international affairs, it was learned today. The honeymoon is not likely to be postponed or shortened, because of the situation with Austria, it was learned today. The president will be in close touch with the White House, Secretary Lansing will be able to visit the president and the honeymoon will be a success.

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